

*AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*

*Please replace paragraph [0092] with the following replacement paragraph.*

[0092] "Stringent hybridization conditions" are those that (1) employ low ionic strength and high temperature for washing, for example, ~~0.015M NaCl/0.0015M sodium tartrate/0.1% sodium dodeccylsulfate at 50°C.~~, or (2) employ during hybridization a denaturing agent such as formamide, for example, 50% (vol/vol) formamide with 0.1% bovine serum albumin/0.1% Ficoll/0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone/50 mM sodium phosphate buffer at pH 6.5 with 750 mM NaCl, 75mM sodium citrate at 42°C. Another example is use of 50% formamide, 5 x SC (0.75M NaCl, 0.075M sodium citrate), 50mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5 x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 mu g/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C., with washes at 42°C. in 0.2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS. Alternatively, "stringent hybridization conditions" are those conditions in which a nucleic acid having greater than about 80% homology, preferably greater than about 90% homology, most preferably, greater than about 95% homology to the *R.anatipestifer OmpA* gene will hybridize to that gene.